

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

June 12, 1997

LB 729, 752

up, to try to get it changed, or every time somebody came into court to try to get child support order modified in one way or another they would be required to pay a \$15 fee. For some time now I have felt, and I think a large number of people in this Legislature have felt, that we are making it too difficult, in terms of fees and legal expenses, for a noncustodial parent to come in and get some sort of access to the courts, or to get regress of their grievances before the courts, that it's too expensive to do that. And here, with this bill, we are making it more expensive to do that. In short, in my opinion, we're moving in the wrong direction by making it more expensive, but we should in fact make it less expensive. In light of the discussion on 752, I am reluctant to make it harder on the noncustodial parents. Furthermore, the mechanism of the bill doesn't operate equitably because the \$15 fee, with respect to modifying a child support order, ordinarily, because it's so easy to get on a IV-D program and have all of your expenses paid for in any proceeding to adjust child support, in that situation the \$15 fee does not burden those who seek child support, the individuals seeking additional child support for example or adjustment, but it does affect those who are seeking changes in visitation on the other side of the equation because they don't have access to the free IV-D services. So we're exacerbating a situation that we should be trying to make more equal over time, in my opinion, in terms of access to the court. And with that, I think I'll stop for the moment and ask Senator Pederson if he would like the remainder of my time to talk about the...another aspect of this particular funding problem.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Pederson, there are three minutes remaining.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker, members of the body, and thank you, Senator Beutler. Last week when this...or a week ago I guess it was when this matter first came up, I looked at that and it struck me \$25, and that was the original bill, \$25 any time there was a post decree of dissolution on anything affecting that matter. Any time that there was a matter coming up on that, any person who wanted to file something in that respect had to pay \$25, and that struck me as completely wrong and I filed an amendment to reduce it down to \$2 and then I met with Senator Landis and we compromised and